

**Name of Property:** Kingston

**MIHP Number:** SM-131

**Location:** 23811 Kingston Creek Road

**Town/Vicinity:** California

**Date of Construction:** circa 1775

**Access:** ☐ Public ☒ Private

Kingston is a ca. 1775 one-and-one-half-story brick house located on the water on Town Creek. Kingston has a three-bay primary facade composed of a central entry door flanked by segmental arched windows. A porch extends across the facade and the roof is pierced by two dormers. Brick chimneys are located at each gable end. The primary wall of the house features Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers. English bond is used on the gable ends, occasionally interrupted on the south side by glazed headers that form a diaper pattern. The house retains its noteworthy L-shaped plan, which is unique for this period in St. Mary's County, with largely intact interior features on the first floor, including its parlor with a fully paneled chimney wall with a crossetted mantel. As summarized by Cary Carson, former Vice President for Research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, "The importance of Kingston is in its L-shaped hall and parlor plan...unique in the <sup>county.</sup> country."

The twenty-first century owner has altered later single-story additions to the original building, demolished the building's early nineteenth century buttery, and has constructed single-story additions to the building. However, the eighteenth century core remains intact and is clearly dominant in the building's overall composition, particularly from the front of the building, which has always been its most significant facade.

Kingston is recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture as an eighteenth century house, with later additions, significant to St. Mary's County, which embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type, period, and method of construction.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no \_\_\_\_\_

Property Name: Kingston Inventory Number: SM-131  
Address: 23811 Kingston Creek Road Historic district: yes ☒ no  
City: California Zip Code: 23290 County: Saint Marys  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Solomons Island  
Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 184 Tax Map Number: 35  
Project: MD 4: Thomas Johnson Bridge Historic Building Survey Agency: Maryland SHA  
Agency Prepared By: Hardlines Design Company  
Preparer's Name: Maria Gissendanner Date Prepared: 07/13/2010  
Documentation is presented in: MHT State Historic Sites Inventory Form SM-131  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_  
Criteria: A B ☒ C D Considerations: A B C D E F G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: yes Listed: yes  
Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Kingston is a 1-story plus attic, 3-bay, brick, Georgian style house constructed c. 1775. The historic core of the house remains much as described in the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey (1976). Located on the Patuxent River, the house is set on a 3.85-acre point bounded by water on two sides. The primary façade of the house faces northeast, overlooking the water. Displaying hallmarks of the Georgian style, the façade is nearly symmetrical and features a central entry door opening flanked by a pair of window openings all topped with segmental arches. The six-panel mahogany front door is likely original and the window openings hold nine-over six wood sash windows. The house's brickwork displays the hierarchy of the facades: "The Flemish bond brickwork of the house is refined and features glazed headers. While English bond is used on the rear elevation, Flemish bond is used on the gable ends where it is occasionally interrupted on the south side by glazed bricks that form a diaper pattern." [1] A 20th century porch extends across the façade of the house. This porch, once screened, is visible in the c. 1930 photos of the house. [2] A pair of small dormer windows pierces the attic story, which now hold one-over-one wood sash windows. Brick interior chimneys with corbelled caps are located at both gable ends of the roof, which is sheathed with recent wood shingles. Additions now conceal the side and rear elevations of the house.

The most recent documentation on Kingston concludes that the house was constructed c. 1775. [3] This date of construction

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments: Lost integrity through overwhelming additions

Jim Jarman ✓  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/20/10  
Date

B. Kuntz  
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/22/10  
Date

201003435

appears to be an estimate derived from the physical evidence of its exterior brickwork, interior plan, and interior features including floors, paneling, and fireplace moldings. Additional work, such as dendrochronology, could likely provide a more exact construction date.

Kingston has undergone two phases of restoration and new construction in the late 20th century. All earlier additions to the house have been demolished, including a significant early 19th century buttery, and the 18th century structure is now flanked by a pair of symmetrical L-shaped wings. The historic core of the house is clearly differentiated from the new construction. The original section of the house is of brick construction and has a recent wood shingle roof. The new wings have wood siding, painted white, and copper standing seam metal roofing. While, the size of these additions is substantial, sophisticated massing has been utilized to maintain the primacy of the original structure within the architectural composition. The height of the additions is masked through the use of dormers and the massing is fractured through the incorporation of 1-story porches, entries, and garage.

Kingston's interior was not examined as part of this evaluation. The historic interior features as detailed in the earlier documentation for the site remain intact in at least the two front rooms, which are the most significant, as evidenced by peering through the front windows. Both hall and parlor are distinguished by original mantels with entablatures above eared frames. The north wall of the hall is fully paneled and retains a simple newel stair in the northeast corner. All other walls in these rooms are plastered with chair rails. There are no cornices. The house retains six-panel mahogany doors. Wood moldings as detailed in the 1976 documentation consist of large simple ogee moldings around the doors and windows, ovolo moldings frame the firebox in the south room, ogee and cavetto moldings frame the firebox frame in the north room, and chair rails incorporating a cavetto and astragal.

St. Mary's planter/merchant class built more permanent and substantial brick houses in the 18th century and small Georgian houses demonstrate an evolution of the hall and parlor building form as owners attempted to differentiate room uses and establish a hierarchy of interior spaces. Kingston has an unusual three room plan comprising a large parlor flanked on one side by two chambers, each with a corner fireplace. As summarized by Cary Carson, former Vice President for Research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, "The importance of Kingston is in its L-shaped hall and parlor plan...unique in the county." [4]

Kingston was owned and occupied by prominent Maryland men in the late 18th c., demonstrating that the Georgian style "[e]xpressed through symmetrical exterior facades, specialization of interior rooms, and refinement in architectural detailing, became a point of departure for differentiating the elite class of Protestant planters and merchants from the less wealthy planters, tenants, and enslaved persons." [5] As derived from the chain of title included in the 1976 survey documentation, John A. Thomas sold 150 acres where Kingston is located to Joseph Daffin in 1789. In the 1798 assessment, Joseph Daffin is listed as the owner and Charles Chilton as the tenant. In 1802, the heirs of Joseph Daffin sold the property to Charles Chilton. Thomas, Daffin, and Chilton are all lionized as Revolutionary War heroes. Both Thomas and Chilton fought in the first major battle of the war, known as the Battle of Brooklyn or the Battle of Long Island, where Maryland earned her nickname "The Old Line State." Chilton was also a Member of the Convention that ratified the Constitution in 1788. Colonel Daffin, although born in St. Mary's County, was prominent on Maryland's eastern shore as an East New Market merchant who married into the Ennals family. In 1775 Col. Joseph Daffin was a member of a Maryland Committee of Observation. Between 1777 and 1778, and again in 1793, he was an in the Lower House of the legislature. From 1783 to 1788 he was Dorchester County Justice. [6]

Kingston is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C as a house that embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type, period and method of construction. Kingston is a refined, modestly scaled, Patuxent region example of a 1-story plus attic, 3-bay, Georgian style brick house from the 2nd half of the 18th century. The house is located on the Patuxent River. It is set upon a substantial lot on a point with water views. Few modern dwellings are visible from the site and the Thomas Johnson Bridge is largely screened by vegetation. The house's unusual L-shaped, three room plan

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:   A     B     C     D   Considerations:   A     B     C     D     E     F     G  

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

SM-131

Kingston

Page 3

demonstrates the individuality or variation of features that occurs within a class. Because there are so few similar houses left in the region from this time period, it cannot be determined whether this plan type was common or influential. It is now unique. The house is restored and substantial 20th century additions flank the original structure. Nonetheless, the original component of the house displays integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. While the additions detract from the property's integrity of feeling its generous waterfront setting greatly reinforces it.

1 Kirk E. Ranzetta, I'm Goin' Down County: An Architectural Journey Through St. Mary's County, (St. Mary's County, 2010), 174.

2 Frances Benjamin Johnston, Kingston Manor, St. Mary's County, Maryland, (Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South [Library of Congress, 1936-37], <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/csas200801943>, accessed 7/13/2010.

3 Ranzetta, 174.

4 John K. Bruton, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, Kingston (SM-131), (St. Mary's County Committee Maryland Historical Trust, 1976), 8-1.

5 Ranzetta, 33.

6 MSgt David E. Cann, USMC (Ret.), family genealogy database, <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~decann/genealogy/master/b298.htm>, accessed 7/13/2010.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

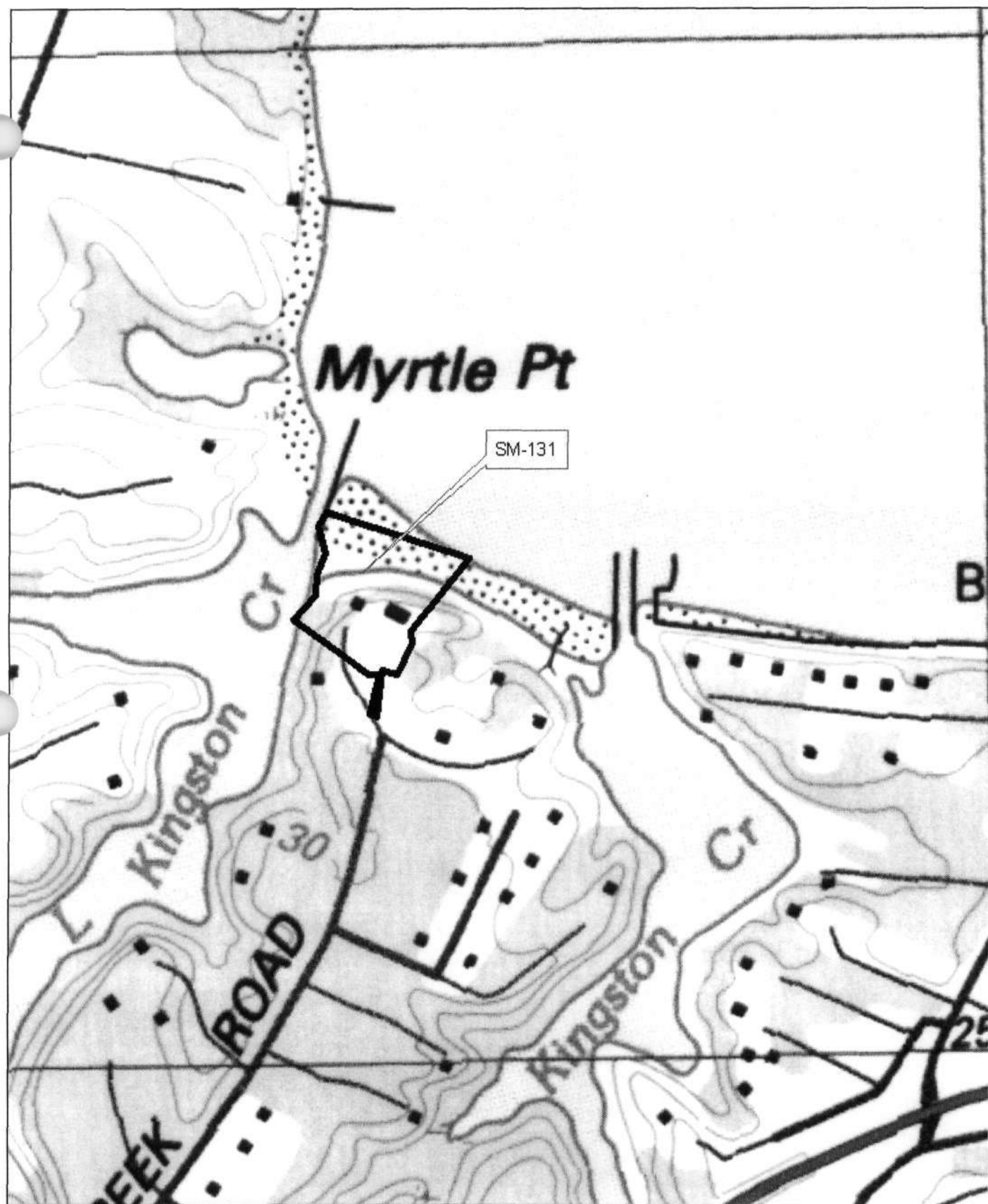
Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:    \_\_\_ A    \_\_\_ B    \_\_\_ C    \_\_\_ D    Considerations:    \_\_\_ A    \_\_\_ B    \_\_\_ C    \_\_\_ D    \_\_\_ E    \_\_\_ F    \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



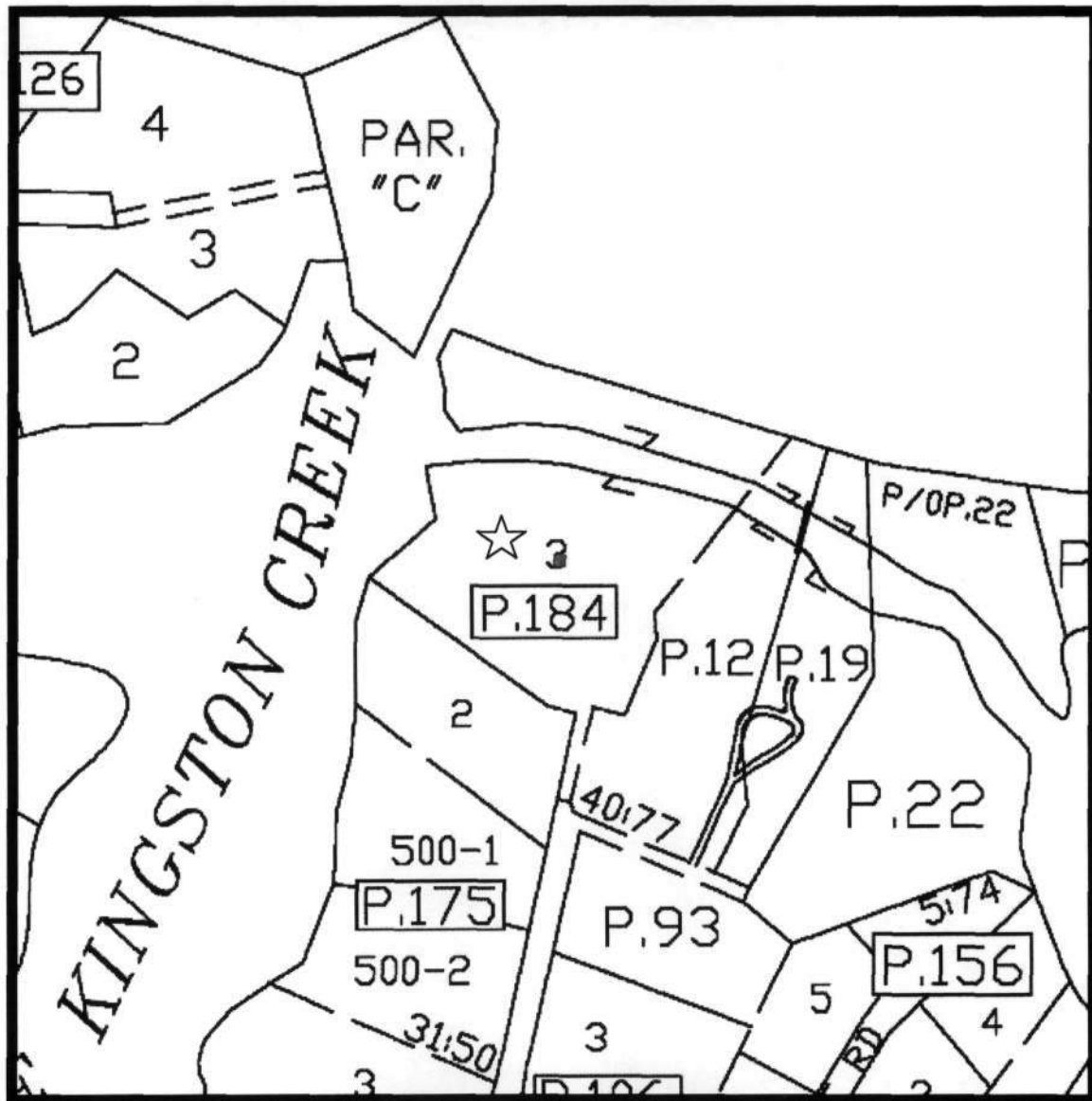
**Kingston (SM-131)**  
23811 Kingston Creek Road, California  
St. Mary's County

0 0.02 0.04 0.08 Miles  
—————

Solomons Island Quadrangle, Maryland  
USGS 7.5' topographic series, 1987







**23811 Kingston Creek Road**  
Tax Map 35, Parcel 184 (marked by star)  
California, St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Source: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/>

## Photo Log

**CD/DVD:** Verbatim, CD-R, Archival Gold

[illegible]





SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's, MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View northeast.

1 of 15



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's, MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

view east

2 of 15



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's, MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View Northeast

3 of 15





SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's, MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View east

40615



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's, MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View northeast

50615



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's, MP

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View southeast

b0615





SN-131

Kingston

St. Mary's MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD - SHPO

View southwest

706 15



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's MD

Jennifer boold

6-30-2010

MD. SHPO

View east

8 of 15



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHP6

View West

9 of 15





SN-131

Kingston

St. Mary's MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View north

10 of 15



SM-131

Kingston  
St. Mary's MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View southwest

11 of 15



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View southeast

12 06 15



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View Northwest

130615





SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's MD

Jennifer Gould

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View Northwest

140615



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's MD

Jennifer Good

6-30-2010

MD SHPO

View southwest

15 of 15

KINGSTON  
California (SM-131)

Mid 18th Century,  
probably third quarter -

4 1/2

The importance of Kingston is its L-shaped, hall and parlor plan with a small, leanto room behind the parlor, with which it shares a corner chimney. Unique in the county, it has parallels across the Patuxent at Upper Bennett and on the Eastern Shore at Hampton, Boston Cliff, and Long Hill Farm. Such houses, never earlier than the seventeen teens or 'twenties and usually not much later than middle 18th century, represent local builders' first tentative experiments with a plan two rooms deep.

Kingston is one of the later examples. If original, as they appear to be, its fully developed mantel entablatures above eared frames around the fireplace openings in the hall and parlor (the latter somewhat simpler) and its mahogany six-panel doors (with the small panels at the top and the larger ones below) probably belong to the third quarter of the century. Closet and staircase doors in the fully paneled N hall wall are later still, c.1800. All the other walls plastered above and below chair rails incorporating a small, cavetto and astragal molding, also typical of the 1760's and later. Locked boxes built into window sills in both front rooms. Ceilings always plastered. No cornice moldings.

The function of the leanto room may have been related to the parlor, from which it was entered. Its present W exterior doorway and S door into a 19th-century brick "office" addition are intrusions. So too the loutish, c.1840-1860 mantel piece.

A steep newel staircase in the NE corner of the hall ascends directly into a small chamber overhead, which must be crossed to reach the much larger S chamber. *Both unheated.* There is a cellar under the hall.

Outside, the E front puts on a spectacular display of red Flemish-bond brickwork, checkerboarded with glassy glazed headers. But it is a show without encores, for the gables and back wall are a hodge-podge of English and common bond - the latter yet another indicator of Kingston's latish date.

Roof frame: common rafter roof visible only at eaves. Rafters nailed to thin, flat, false plates.

Moldings: Doors and windows: large, simple ogee; firebox frame in S room: ovolo; firebox frame in N room: ogee and cavetto; chair rails: cavetto and astragal; raised panels and six-panel doors: small ovolo; six-panel doors in N wall: quirk ogee and astragal.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Kingston

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Kingston Drive

CITY, TOWN

California

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First Congressional District

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Mary's County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dale T. Cropper and Florence D. Cropper, his wife Telephone #: (301) 862-2791

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Kingston Drive

CITY, TOWN

California

☒ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code  
Maryland 20619**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: CBG 113

Folio #: 288

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Lane

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtwn

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

St. Mary's City Commission

CITY, TOWN

St. Mary's City

STATE

Maryland

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

---

Kingston

#6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

2. State of Maryland, Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory  
Vol. 1, Lower Southern Maryland

## 7 DESCRIPTION

SM-131

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kingston a mid to late 18th century house is located at the end of Kingston Drive in California, Maryland, St. Mary's County. It stands upon a bluff overlooking the Patuxent River and Solomons Island.

Kingston is one and one half stories high by three bays wide by two rooms deep with a modern one story extension at the N gable end. There is a small one story one bay by one room addition (now a modern kitchen at the S end of the W "leanto" room.

The brickwork in the E or front (facing the Patuxent) is red Flemish bond with checkboarded glassy-glazed headers and the gables are a mixture of English and common bond as is the rear (W) facade. The chimneys at the gable ends are interior and have corbled caps.

The E front has two-over-four paneled mahogany door in the center with a flat arch above and is flanked by six-over-four windows with flat arches and shutters. A modern porch has been attached to this end. Gables with four-over-four windows are centered above each first story window. The S gable end has two windows one two-over-two at the N side on the first floor and a four-over-four above in the loft. The N gable has no windows. The W side with the leanto addition has a door at the center of the addition and two four-over-four windows on the S end. There is a door on the E side into the 19th century office.

All walls of the interior are plastered above and below the chairrail except for the Hall which is fully paneled. The chairrail incorporates small cavetto and astragal moldings. All ceilings are plastered and there are no cornice moldings. All doors are six panel two-over-four of solid mahogany with box locks.

The walls of the Hall are fully paneled. The fireplace in the N wall has a fully developed mantel entablature above eared frames and is flanked on each side by two-over-two paneled closet doors. The left door opens into a short closet with a door inside leading to the modern N extension. The right closet has been retained below the enclosed staircase. To the right of this closet is four steps with railing and newlpost leading to a door. The door opens to a narrow steep stairway leading to the loft above. A small narrow office is entered through an door in the W wall of the hall. This office is an early 20th century additon.

The Parlor is entered through the S wall of the Hall. The parlor and the leanto room (entered through the W wall of the parlor) share a common chimney in the S gable end. This provides cornor firepla ces in each room. The mantle in the parlor is almost identical to the one in the Hall. The Leanto fireplace mantle is of much simpler design than Hall or Parlor being a plain shelf. The fireplace when reopened to its original dimensions was found to still have its original iron crane. The Hall and Parlor window sills have built in locked boxes.

A 19th century "office" (now ahmodern kitchen) is entered through the S doorway of the leanto room. This doorway was cut through the original window

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORMCONTINUATION SHEET

---

Kingston

## #7 Description

of that gable end.

The loft above the Hall and Parlor is divided into two chambers. The first entering from the stair contains closets and a modern bath, the second and larger is a modern bed room.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1750-1800

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kingston built sometime in the mid to later half of the 18th century is significant for its architecture.

Popular local history gives two possible accounts for the origin of Kingston. Robert E.T. Pogue in Old Maryland Landmarks (pub. 1972, Bushwood, Md.) cites both of these. Pogue says that Kingston was at one time part of Resurrection Manor and was given to Corneilius Canada as payment for bricks burned by Canada in 1652. In 1660 there are four families living at Resurrection Manor and Canada's is one of them. Pogue also says Kingston may have been built by a Captain King in the later 1600's and that the latches and other hardware used in the house came from his ship. The building presently standing and known as Kingston was not built before the 1750's and could not be one of these earlier structures. In a more romantic vein Kingston is said to be haunted by a sea Captain's wife and to have treasure buried on the property.

There are three tracts of land that compose what is presently known as Kingston. These tracts were purchased over several years by Charles Chilton and were complete by 1809. The first reference to these tracts as Kingston is not until 1835 when a deed record for a Sheriff's sale says: "...now known as Kingston." The description in the 1798 Federal Assessment Lists fits the dimensions of the present day structure exactly and it lists a Joseph Daffin as the owner and Charles Chilton as tenant. There are traces of earlier structures on the property at Kingston and they have yet to be explored by archeologists. Perhaps these tracts will provide some clues to the "earlier" Kingston.

\*"The importance of Kingston is in its L-shaped hall and parlor plan with a small leanto room behind the parlor, with which it shares a corner chimney. Unique in the county, it has parallels across the Patuxent at Upper Bennet and on the Eastern Shore at Hampton, Boston Cliffs and Long Hill Farm. Such houses, never earlier than the seventeens or 'twenties and usually not much later than middle 18th century, represent local builders first tentative experiments with a plan two rooms deep.

\*Prepared by Dr. Cary Carson, Architectural Historian  
St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, Md.  
HABS Survey and MHT Survey #STSM-131

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

---

Kingston

#8 Significance

Kingston is one of the later examples. If original, as they appear to be, its fully developed mantel entablatures above eared frames around the fireplace openings in the hall and parlor (the later somewhat simpler) and its mahogany six-panel doors (with the small panels at the top and the larger ones below) probably belong to the third quarter of the century/ Closet and staircase doors in the fully paneled N hall are later still, c. 1800. All the other walls are plastered above and below chair rails incorporating a small cavetto and astragal molding, also typical of the 1760's and later. Locked boxes are built into window sills in both front rooms. Celings always are plastered. No cornice moldings.

The function of the leanto room may have been related to the parlor, from which it was entered. Its present W exterior doorway and S door into a 19th century brick "office" are intrusions. So too the c. 1840-1860 mantle piece.

A steep newel staircase in the NE corner of the hall ascends directly to a small chamber overhead, which must be crossed to reach the much larger S chamber, both are unheated. There is a cellar under the hall.

Outside, the E front puts on a spectacular display of red Flemish-bond brickwork, checkboarded with glassy glazed headers. But it is a show with encores, for the gables and back wall are a hodge-podge of English and common bond- the latter yet another indicator of Kingston's latish date."

Kingston was purchased and restored to its present condition by Mr. & Mrs. Dale T. Cropper the present owenrs.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

*7.44 acres***VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See enclosed deed. St. Mary's County Registry of Deeds  
Liber CBG 113 folio 288

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES.

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John K. Bruton, Research Analyst I

16 Nov. 1976

ORGANIZATION

St. Mary's County Committee Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o David Roberts (Chmn.) 109 Lakeland Dr.

TELEPHONE

(301) 373-5251

CITY OR TOWN

Hollywood

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Kingston			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Kingston Road			
CITY OR TOWN: California			
STATE Maryland	CODE	COUNTY: St. Mary's	CODE
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>			
Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>			
No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNERS NAME:			
STREET AND NUMBER: Kingston			
CITY OR TOWN: California	STATE: Maryland	CODE	STATE:
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: St. Mary's County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street and Courthouse Drive			
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown	STATE: Maryland	CODE	COUNTY:
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:			
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	ENTRY NUMBER
			DATE

ACREAGE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Overlooking the Patuxent River, Kingston appears to be of an early 18th C. construction date, is one story<sup>in</sup> height with a dormered roof, of brick construction, and has several frame and brick additions at each end. The most interesting features of the house include the Flemish bonding with glazed headers at the N. wall (both ends + rear are English bond), and an original "outshut" at the rear.

The house is 3 bays in length, the doors occupy the center bay and windows of the N. + S. Elevation are of 9/9 pane sash. at the roof level are 2 dormers with flush board siding and 4/4 pane sash. There ~~are~~ is a water table with a chamfered top course.

~~This house warrants a closer examination.~~

Fittings on Kingston taken from its owner's ship include a brass door latch and other hardware. A hidden window-sill compartment was used to hide household valuables and bottles of wine.



## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☒20th Century ☒15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Architecture ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

<sup>by a British naval officer, Capt King,</sup>  
 \* KINGSTON WAS BUILT ABOUT 1658 AND IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND EARLY "RIVER HOUSES." IT IS NOW POPULARLY CALLED ~~KINGSTON MANOR~~ BUT I COULD NOT FIND IT LISTED AMONG THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY MANORS. IT WAS PROBABLY A PART OF RESURRECTION MANOR, WHICH WAS GRANTED TO CAPTAIN THOMAS CORNWALEYS IN 1650, CONSISTING OF 4000 ACRES. THE POWER TO HOLD COURT WAS INCLUDED WITH THE MANOR GRANTS, BUT OWNERS OF "FREEHOLDS" WITH SMALLER ACREAGE, SUCH AS KINGSTON, DID NOT ENJOY THIS PRIVILEGE.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

*Chronicles of St. Mary's Published by the St. Mary's  
County Historical Society*

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Socomons Island Quad

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	

LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
76	29		38	19	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <i>Riviere &amp; Robert E.T. Pogue</i>		
ORGANIZATION: <i>NHT</i>	DATE: <i>4/72</i>	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

SM-131

KINGSTON- chain of title

---

Present Owner

28 May 1964

Deed Record St. Mary's County CBG 113 folio 288

Grantor: Leon S. Hill and Rita D. Hill, his wife

Grantee: Dale T. Cropper and Florence D. Cropper, his wife

31 Jan. 1964

Deed Record St. Mary's County CBG 111 folio 388

Grantor: J. Howard Joynt and May L. Joynt

Grantee: Leon S. Hill jr.

4 Dec. 1963

Deed Record St. Mary's County CBG 111 folio 32

Grantor: Dorothy C. Romney, unmarried

Grantee: J. Howard Joynt and May L. Joynt

31 Dec. 1954

Deed Record St. Mary's County CBG 54 folio 183

Grantor: Elizabeth T. Croissant, widow

Grantee: Dorothy C. Romney

16 May 1925

Deed Record St. Mary's County JMM 3 folio 139

Grantor: Walter A. Gebhart and Laura Gebhart, his wife

Grantee: De Witt Croissant

"part Kingston" 8 acres more or less

3 Apr. 1925

Deed Record St. Mary's County JMM 3 folio 77

Grantor: Elizabeth H. Lynn and Albert C. Lynn, her husband

Grantee: Walter A. Gebhart

14 Sept. 1923

Deed Record St. Mary's County JMM 2 folio 21

Grantor: John F. Gross and Minnie M. Gross, his wife

Grantee: Elizabeth H. Lynn

5 Sept. 1918

Deed Record St. Mary's County EBA 17 folio 331

Grantor: Frederick W. Gross and Eva Gross, his wife

Grantee: John F. Gross and Minnie M. Gross, his wife

"...all that tract or parcel of land, called and known as 'Kingston.' "

200 acres more or less

30 Mar. 1901

Deed Record St. Mary's County EBA 2 folio 301

Grantor: Patrick Hazel, Jennie Bradley and William Bradley, her husband

Grantee: Frederick W. Gross

200 acres more or less

15 Jan. 1895

Deed Record St. Mary's County JJG 2 folio 445

Grantor: David Hammett and Henrietta Hammett, his wife

Grantee: Patrick Hazel and Amelia Hazel, now deceased

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

SM-131

KINGSTON- chain of title continued

---

- 10 Sept. 1893      Deed Records St. Mary's County JYG 1 folio 426, JYG 1 folio 428 and  
27 Sept. 1893      JYG 1 folio 428 & c.  
Grantors: Alfred T. Varrnerson (asignee), Daniel C. Hammett (trustee),  
                 S. Chapman Thompson, sheriff.  
Grantee: David Hammett and Henrietta A. Hammett, his wife  
Alfred T. Varrnerson was assigned the rights to Kingston when a mortgage  
to James F. Abell was defaulted on by Samuel C. Hunt and Fannie Hunt.
- (date unknown)      Samuel C. Hunt and Fannie Hunt (most likely the children of Dorinda W. Hunt  
                                 and Samuel C. Hunt) inherit or buy Kingston. No records in either  
                                 Deeds, Wills or Orphans Court.
- 12 Nov. 1863      Deed Record St. Mary's County JTB 4 folio 222  
Grantor: Louis S. Gilliams and wife  
Grantee: Dorinda W. Hunt, widow of Samuel C. Hunt
- 10 May 1855      Deed Record St. Mary's County JTB 2 folio 119-121  
Grantor: A.H. Hall and Mary Hall, his wife  
Grantee: Louis S. Gilliams
- 21 Mar. 1853      Deed Record St. Mary's County JTB 1 folio 476  
Grantor: Thomas R. Tongue (Tounge) and Jane Tongue, his wife  
Grantee: Alexander Hamilton Hall  
330 acres more or less...
- 9 Mar. 1853      Deed Record St. Mary's County JTB 1 folio 364  
Grantor: Young P. Dawkins and Alethea E. Dawkins, his wife  
Grantee: Thomas R. Tongue
- 12 Oct. 1852      Deed Record St. Mary's County JTB 1 folio 213  
Grantor: Rachel Thomas (the late) by B.G. Harris (trustee)  
Grantee: Young P. Dawkins
- 27 April 1836      Deed Record St. Mary's County JH 10 folio 431  
Grantor: John A. Burroughs and Elizabeth Y. Burroughs, his wife  
Grantee: Rachel Thomas  
330 acres more or less...
- 10 Nov. 1835      Deed Record St. Mary's County JH 10 folio 363  
Grantor: George H. Morgan, sheriff  
Grantee: John A. Burroughs  
A sheriff's sale of the property of George S. Leigh in court  
judgement against him in John Patterson et al vs. Leigh.  
Piney Neck 100 acres, Deptford 50 acres, pt. St. Joseph's Manor 180 acres,  
total 330 acres "...now known as 'Kingston'."
- 28 July 1835      Deed Record St. Mary's County JH 10 folio 315  
Grantor: George S. Leigh and Sophia L. Leigh, his wife  
Grantee: John A. Burroughs  
Piney Neck 100 acres, Deptford 50, pt. St. Joseph's Manor 180.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

SM-131

KINGSTON- chain of title continued

- 13 Aug. 1832      Land Commission Records St. Mary's County JH 3 folio 113  
The heirs of John S. Leigh petition the court to divide the estate of John S. Leigh. George S. Leigh is one of the heirs.
- 1826      Assessment Book of Real and Personal Property 1826, St. Mary's County Leigh, George S.
- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Piney Neck             | 100              |
| Depford                | 50               |
| pt. St. Joseph's Manor | 180              |
|                        | <u>330 acres</u> |
- 20 Apr. 1824      Register of Wills St. Mary's County JF 1 folio 108  
Charles Chilton the brother of Ann Chilton, wife of George H. Leigh, leaves his lands to John S. Leigh. These lands are not enumerated.
- 30 Sept. 1822      Alienations and Transfers 1786-1829 St. Mary's County p. 256  
Susan Wilson deeds to Charles Chilton, Piney Neck and Deptford 150 acres.
- 1821      Federal Tax Assessment 1821, St. Mary's County, Harvey Hundred Chilton, Charles
- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Piney Neck             | 100              |
| Depford                | 50               |
| pt. St. Joseph's Manor | 180              |
|                        | <u>330 acres</u> |
- 1812      Federal Tax Assessment 1812, St. Mary's County, Harvey Hundred Chilton, Charles
- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Piney Neck             | 100              |
| Depford                | 50               |
| pt. St. Joseph's Manor | 180              |
|                        | <u>330 acres</u> |
- 8 Aug. 1809      Alienations and Transfers 1786-1829, St. Mary's County p.145  
Stephen Milburn and wife deed to Charles Chilton "...all that tract or parcel of land lying in St. Joseph's Manor in St. Mary's County deeded by John Rousby Plater to Joseph Fenwick, containing 180 acres."
- 1806      Federal Tax Assessment 1806, St. Mary's County, Harvey Hundred Charles Chilton
- |            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Piney Neck | 100 |
| Depford    | 50  |
- 1805      Land Commission Records, St. Mary's County JH 1 folio 159  
A petition by Stephen Milburn and Margaret Milburn, his wife and Susanna Fenwick to divide or sell the lands of "Bennet Joseph Fenwick died intestate seized in fee Part of st. Joseph's Manor." "...containing as per deed from John Rousby Plater 180 acres." The commission authorizes the sale of the land as the only equitable solution for all parties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

KINGSTON- chain of title

26 Apr. 1802 Alienations and Transfers 1786-1829, St. Mary's County  
p. 83

Fancis I. Wilson deeds to Charles Chilton  
Piney Neck 100 acres, Debtford 50 acres

1801 Assessment Book, 1801, St. Mary's County

Daffin, Joseph E's Heirs  
Jenkins price 100  
Debtford 50

Fenwick, Bennet  
St. Joseph's Manor 180

1798 U.S. Assessment Records 1798, St. Mary's County  
General List of Dwellings

Daffin, Joseph  
A dwelling house 36 x 20 feet, shed one side 15 x 7 1/2 feet,  
Brick Bldg in bad repair, 3 windows 5 x 2 1/2 feet, 3 windows 3 x 1 1/2  
feet. Kitchen 28 x 12 feet, all one story adjacent to the river  
Patuxent Harvey Hundred

Charles Chilton, tenant

1796 Assessment Book 1796, St. Mary's County

Daffin, Joseph E.  
Jenkins peice 100  
Debtford 50

1794 Assessment Book 1794, St. Mary's County

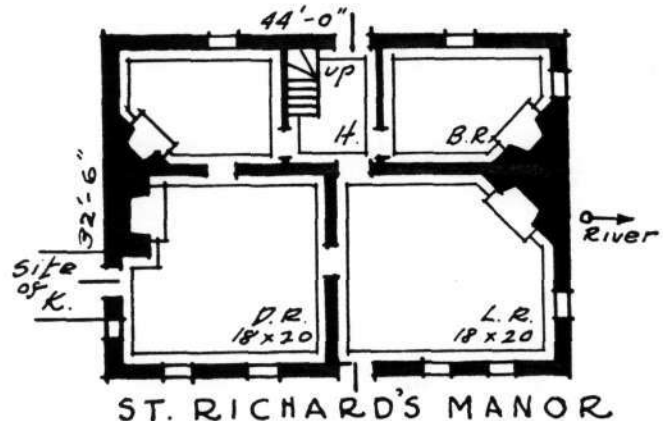
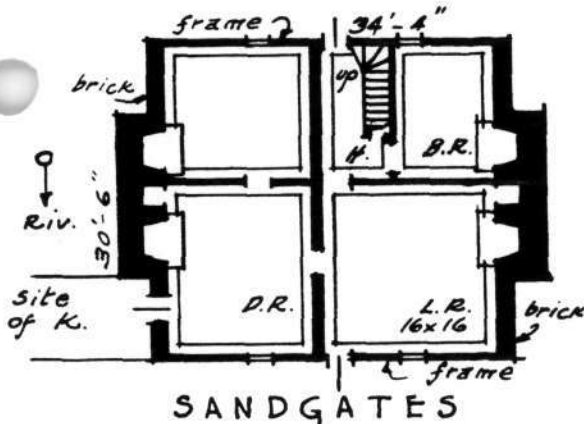
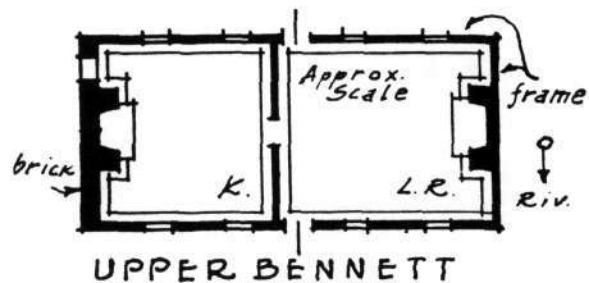
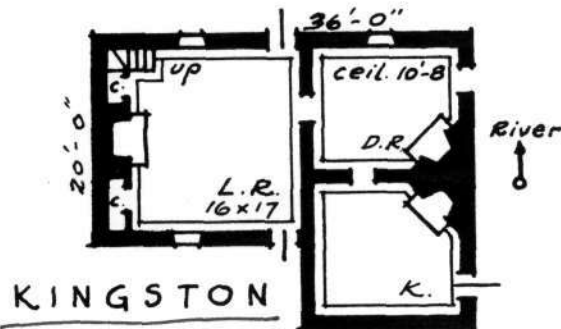
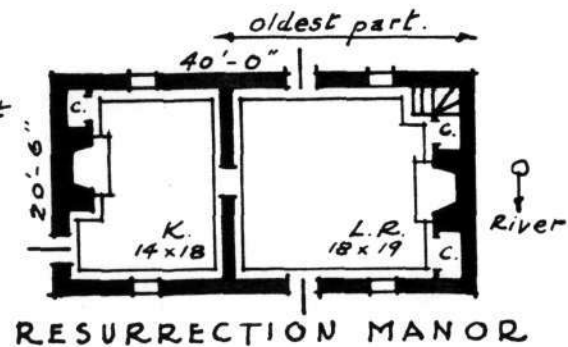
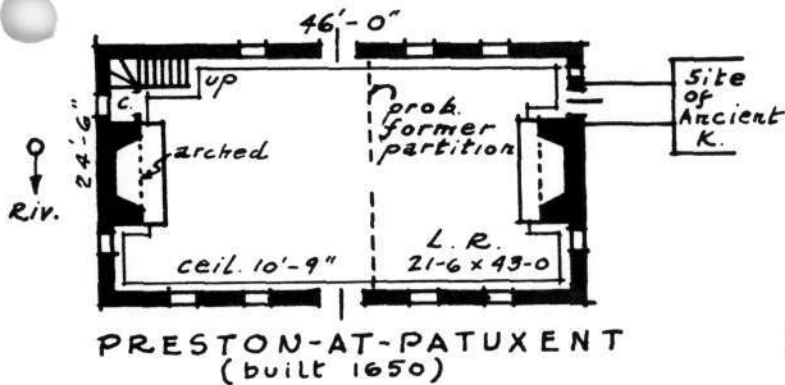
Daffin, Joseph E.  
Jenkins piece 100  
Debtford 50

1793 Assessment Book 1793, St. Mary's County

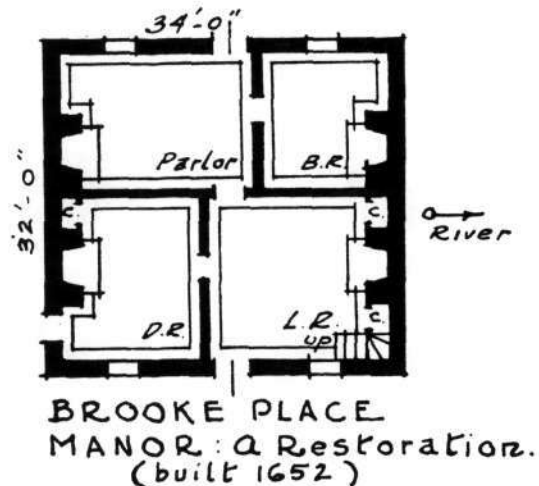
Daffin, Joseph E.  
~~Jenkins piece 100~~  
Debtford 50

3 Sept. 1789 Alienations and Transfers 1786-1829, St. Mary County

p.21  
John A. Thomas deeds to Joseph Daffin  
Piney Neck and Depford 150 acres



**PLANS**  
OF SOME  
**EARLY HOUSES**  
OF THE  
**LOWER PATUXENT**  
**REGION**





SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

January 1995

MD SHPO

1/3

SE Elev.





SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

January 1995

MD SHPO

2/3

NW Elev.



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

January 1995

MD SHPO

3/3

Ortbuilding



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Md SHPO

Nov/99

N+ E elevations

1 of 3



SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Md S#PO

Nov/99

Interior - main room - looking N

2 of 3





SM-131

Kingston

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Md SHPO

Nov/99

Interior - side room - looking S

2 of 2